

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6474

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PL, IT, VT, PINT

SUBJECT: OLSZOWSKI'S ROME VISIT AND POLISH CHURCH-STATE
RELATIONS

REF: WARSAW 4623

1. FOREIGN MINISTER STEFAN OLSZOWSKI'S LONG-PLANNED VISIT TO ROME HAS NOW BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR NOVEMBER 8-9, WHICH RAISES AGAIN THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT A PAPAL AUDIENCE WILL ENSUE. A POLISH EPISCOPATE INFORMATION OFFICER, QUERIED OCT 29, DECLINED TO CONFIRM THAT SUCH AN AUDIENCE WAS IN THE OFFING, SAYING "OFFICIALLY" HE DID NOT KNOW BUT ADDING THAT "POSSIBLY" OLSZOWSKI WOULD MEET WITH THE POPE. IN THIS LIGHT WE ARE PUZZLED BY THE APPEARANCE ON OCT 30 OF AN ARTICLE DENIGRATING PAPAL AUDIENCES IN THE SAME EDITION OF THE WARSAW DAILY WHICH CARRIED THE BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT OF OLSZOWSKI'S VISIT.

2. THE ARTICLE, BY ZDZISLAW MORAWSKI, A POLISH CORRESPONDENT IN ROME, DEALS WITH THE OCT 27 RECEPTION BY THE POPE OF L. CHRISTOPH, A PRELATE OSTENSIBLY REPRESENTING EMIGRE CATHOLICS FROM THE COUNTY OF GLATZ (OR
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KLODZKO IN POLISH) LOCATED IN LOWER SLIESIA. BISHOP

JANSSEN OF HILDESHEIM ARRANGED THE AUDIENCE, ACCORING TO MORAWSKI, WHO GOES ON TO CONDEMN THE CONTNUED SUPPORT OF ALLEGED GEMAN REVANCHIST ORGANIZATIONS BY CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE FRG CATHOLIC HIERARCHY. MORAWSKI POINTS OUT THAT THESE ALLEGED REVANCHISTS CAN GAIN LITTLE FROM SUCH A VISIT SINCE THE VATICAN ATTITUDE ON OSTPOLITIK HAS BECOM UNEQUIVOCAL, BUT HE ALSO OBSERVES THAT THE DIGNITY OF THE VATICAN, WHICH IS PRESENTING ITSELF AS A PARTNER IN THE DETENTE PROCESS, CAN GAIN NOTHING EITHER FROM SUCH MEETINGS. MORAWSKIS AIR OF RIDICULE APPEARS IN HIS REMARK THAT, IN PRINCIPLE, THE POPE WILL RECEIVE ANYONE WHO ASKS, INCLUDING "HIPPIES AND PHILATELISTS".

3. COMMENT: UNLESS PUBLICATION OF THIS ARTICLE RESULTED FROM EDITORIAL OVERSIGHT, WHICH IS POSSIBLE BUT UNLIKELY, WE FIND IT PUZZLING THAT SUCH COMMENTS WOULD BE PRINTED ON THE EVE OF THE POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO ROME. PRESUMABLY, A PAPAL AUDIENCE CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED FOR DOMESTIC IMPACT WOULD AID THE POLISH REGIME IN ITS DISPUTE WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AT HOME, AND REPORTS WE HAD RECEIVED EARLIER(REFTEL) INDICATING OLSZOWSKI WOULD MEET THE POPE DURING THIS VISIT TEND TO BE BORNE OUT BY THE EPISCOPATE OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS. HOWEVER, PUBLICATION OF MORAWSKI'S ARTICLE WOULD SEEM TO CONTRADICT THIS, UNLESS THE POLES ARE SIMPLY HEDGING THEIR BETS IN CASE THE AUDIENCE THEY MAY ANTICIPATE IS EITHER ABORTED OR GOES BADLY FOR THE POLISH REGIME.

DAVIES

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